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LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the Statement of the Council of the Baltic States On the Issue of the Withdrawal of the Former USSR Military Troops from the Territory of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and a Message from the Council to the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We would be grateful if you have these texts circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Estonia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Latvia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Lithuania
to the United Nations

Annex I

Statement issued on 16 March 1992 by the Council of the Baltic States on the issue of the withdrawal of the former USSR military troops from the territory of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania

The Council of the Baltic States acknowledges the commencement of dialogue between the Baltic States and the Russian Federation on the issue of the withdrawal of the former USSR military troops, currently under the jurisdiction of Russia, from the territory of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. At the same time, the Council of the Baltic States is forced to acknowledge that this dialogue is proceeding unsatisfactorily and with this, there still exists a threat to the State sovereignty of the Baltic States and to the peace and stability in this region.

Even now, the October 5 statement of the Council of the Baltic States request for the immediate withdrawal of military troops from the Baltic States capitals, as well as the withdrawal of offensive troops, namely paratrooper units and strategic air force units, has continued to be ignored. The January 5, 1992 appeal to the heads of State of the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States - to recall their citizens who are serving in the former USSR's armed forces which should be withdrawn from the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - has remained unanswered, with the exception of Azerbaijan.

The former USSR military troops, which are to be withdrawn from the territories of the Baltic States, continue to act as conquerors and disregard the sovereignty and legislation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This is furthered by the lack of their clear subordination to the Russian Government. Without notice to and the approval of the Governments of the Baltic States, the above-mentioned military troops relocate their units and continue to hold exercises in artillery firing and land and sea shelling. The military troop units continue to cause damage to the environment. The military troops have begun illegal business activities, namely, the sale of weapons and property and the clearing of forests. The Council of the Baltic States expresses its protest against the above-mentioned violations of the sovereignty of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and requests Russia to undertake the most decisive measures to terminate such activities.

The Council of the Baltic States categorically protests against the continued presence, in the sovereign territory of independent States, of the former border guard units of the former USSR which hinder the realization of the defence of the State borders of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with the Baltic States own forces.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania still continue to demand material compensation for the military property, arms and equipment of their armies,

which was seized in 1940 by the Soviet Union, and which is presently necessary for the renewal of their State defence capability, as well as compensation for other losses caused by the presence of the former USSR military troops in the Baltic States territory.

The Council of the Baltic States invites Russia, which has proclaimed itself successor of the USSR's rights and obligations, to realize a policy which would promote the strengthening of regional and European security, the reduction of tensions and the increase of confidence. The aforementioned is contradicted by the intention to station a great number of military troops, which have been withdrawn from central and eastern Europe, as well as from the Baltic States, in close proximity to the borders of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The Council of the Baltic States expresses its hope that the Russian Federation will demonstrate its goodwill and will do everything to actually and immediately withdraw the military troops currently under its jurisdiction from the territory of the Baltic States. The Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, on their part, are ready to conclude an agreement on the terms and procedures for the withdrawal of the military troops.

A. Rüütel	A. Gorbunovs	V. Landsbergis
Chairman	Chairman	Chairman
Supreme Council	Supreme Council	Supreme Council
Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania

Annex II

Message dated 16 March 1992 from the Council of the Baltic States addressed to each of the Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States

We have the honour to inform you about the statement on the issue of the withdrawal of the former USSR military troops from the territory of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which was adopted at the March 16, 1992 meeting of the Council of the Baltic States.

We are looking forward to receiving an answer as to your country's position on the issues described in this statement as soon as possible. We also turn to Your Excellency with a proposal to discuss the aforementioned document at the meeting of the heads of State of the CIS members, which is planned for March 20, 1992.

We express our conviction that an immediate solution of the issue concerning the speedy withdrawal of the former USSR military troops from the Baltic States will facilitate the strengthening of confidence among our countries and will contribute to ensuring security in this region and in Europe as a whole.

A. Rüütel	A. Gorbunovs	V. Landsbergis
Chairman	Chairman	Chairman
Supreme Council	Supreme Council	Supreme Council
Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania